



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

LATINO/HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Latino/Hispanic American community is made up of distinct groups, including individuals from Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean and Spain, who enhance the diversity and quality of life throughout our nation and our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Latino/Hispanic community contributes to our Commonwealth's cultural diversity by influencing art, music and food in Virginia, and by contributing to the strength of our communities with their strong commitments to family, love of country and respect for others; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 Census, approximately 329,540 individuals of Latino/Hispanic origin live in the Commonwealth and this number is continuously growing, making Latinos/Hispanics the largest minority population in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a growing Latino/Hispanic population who have made countless contributions to Virginia's businesses, industries, and schools, as well as, to our Commonwealth's legal and political communities; and

WHEREAS, since 1968, by Joint Resolution of the United States Congress and by Presidential Proclamation, Latino/Hispanic heritage has been celebrated throughout our nation in recognition of the many contributions Latino/Hispanic communities have made to American history and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize September 15 through October 15, 2003, as **LATINO/HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Mark R. Warner

Governor

Anita A. Rimmer

Secretary of the Commonwealth